Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178994

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 PRS-01 SS-15 INR-07 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:RBHOWARD:EMM
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:RWYROUGH
H - BILL RICHARDSON (DRAFT)
ARA - AMBASSADOR RYAN
S/PRS - E. PERNICK
ARA/PAF - KATE MARSHALL (DRAFT)
---------- 120451
P 292305Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178994

STADIS//////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN
SUBJECT: SENATE POSTPONES FINAL CONSIDERATION OF BYRD (SNYDER) AMENDMENT.

1. ON JULY 24 THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DELETED THE BYRD AMENDMENT (IDENTICAL TO HOUSE-APPROVED SNYDER AMENDMENT) FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL. SENATOR H. BYRD (VA) WAS EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE IDENTICAL AMENDMENT THIS WEEK ON SENATE FLOOR, BUT CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES NOW CONFIRM THAT SUCH A MOVE WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL AFTER THE AUGUST RECESS.

2. SENATOR BYRD
REQUESTED RIGHT TO UNLIMITED DEBATE (FILIBUSTER)
ON HIS PROPOSED AMENDMENT. FACED WITH NEED TO COMPLETE HEAVY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA BY AUGUST 1 RECESS, SENATE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 178994

LEADERSHIP DECIDED THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

LONG DEBATE AND OPTED INSTEAD TO POSTPONE FLOOR DISCUSSION ON THE BYRD AMENDMENT UNTIL AFTER SENATE RECONVENES IN SEPTEMBER.

3. FROM DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY HEADCOUNT IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT IF THE BYRD AMENDMENT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED ON THE FLOOR THIS WEEK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOUNDLY DEFEATED. DURING RECESS, DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE

AND EXPAND CURRENT EDUCATIONAL EFFORT ON THE HILL IN SUPPORT OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS TO INCLUDE HOUSE AS WELL AS SENATE.

4. IF ASKED REGARDING CURRENT STATUS OF BYRD (SNYDER) AMENDMENT YOU MAY USE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE:

"ON JULY 24 THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DELETED THE BYRD AMENDMENT, WHICH WOULD HAVE CUT OFF FUNDS FOR THE PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS,FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL. WE WERE GRATIFIED BY THIS DECISION. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT ANY EFFORT TO REINTRODUCE THE AMENDMENT DURING SENATE FLOOR DEBATE AFTER THE AUGUST RECESS WILL BE DEFEATED.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NOT ONLY WITH PANAMA BUT WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE THAT THE TREATY NEGOTIATING PROCESS GO FORWARD." INGERSOLL

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE178994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBHOWARD:EMM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750261-0884
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750710/aaaaajoa.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE POSTPONES FINAL CONSIDERATION OF BYRD (SNYDER) AMENDMENT.
TAGS: PFOR, PN
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006